

# Rotary



## Club of Gaithersburg

May 28th, 2023

### Club Meeting

Meets First and third Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. at La Villa Restaurant  
[18701 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879](https://www.google.com/maps/place/18701+North+Frederick+Avenue,+Gaithersburg,+MD+20879)

Also, on Zoom the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. For logon information, write to [gaithersurrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:gaithersurrotaryclub@gmail.com)

### Club Leaders

**Margaret Young**  
President  
**Margaret Young**  
President-Elect  
**Bob H. Bokma**  
Secretary  
**Dan Dellon**  
Treasurer  
**Janet Greiner**  
Immediate Past President  
**Sara Torrence**  
Club Foundation Chair  
**Hannah Katakam**  
Club Foundation Secretary  
**Frederick Cooksey**  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
**Kenneth Weiss**  
Area Governor

### Events

May 30th  
**Happy hour at The Bench Bar at the Marriott Hotel in Rio, 5:00 P.M.**  
**Join club members for appetizers (courtesy of the club) AND drinks (you pay!) and get to know your fellow Rotarians.**

May 31, 6:00 p.m.  
Red Line Happy Hour  
King Street Oyster Bay, 22 M Street in D.C.

June 6th at La Villa  
**CLUB ASSEMBLY**  
There may be discussions about FFOH, the impending merger, and other important topics.

June 6th, 2:30 p.m. on Zoom  
**DACDB info.** on ending the year and starting the new one  
Info. on the district website.

June 13th

## The Flags are Flying

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Sunday, May 28, 2023



Flags for Our Heroes opened on schedule. 750 magnificent American flags will fly in Bohrer Park, in Gaithersburg, until 9:00 a.m. on Monday. The early take-down is due to the threat of rain.

The inauguration was very well attended and included a presentation of colors by Scouts from three troops, a drill exhibition by Gaithersburg High School's Navy JROTC, music by the Teen Angels project, and comments by Mayor Ashman and the presidents of three Rotary clubs. There were special recognitions of two military veterans, both about 100 years old. Besides Mayor Ashman, we were honored by the presence of County Councilman Katz, most members of the Gaithersburg City Council, district representatives, and other leaders in our area. A ceremonial flag was planted for Gardner Torrence, a long-time city employee who has helped with FFOH throughout its ten-year history.

**Stu Rutchik**, President of the Montgomery Village Rotary Club, praised **Margaret Young** for her work as this year's FFOH Chairman. He also announced that talks were underway to bring the three participating clubs - Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, and Historic Emory Grove, together under the same banner. This is likely to be done in mid-July, 2023.

## And, Richie Celebrates

The FFOH inauguration was chaired by Emmyrich Vicente who, on the same day, joyfully celebrated his --th birthday. Richie is a member and Past President of the Gaithersburg Rotary Club and is also a bank officer, model, muscle man, and board member of the Gaithersburg Germantown Chamber of Commerce and other organizations. We don't know how he does it all but, **Happy Birthday, Richie.**

## Disaster Aid USA

Disasters! They are coming Fast and Furious. A Rotary-affiliated organization, **Disaster Aid USA**, based here in Maryland, does what it can to deal with

No meeting scheduled.

#### June 20th **GGCC update**

**Speaker:** Paula Ross  
The Lady in Charge of the  
Gaithersburg Germantown  
Chamber of Commerce

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#### The Rotary Four-way Test

Of all that we think, say and do:

- Is it the truth?
  - Is it fair to all concerned?
  - Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
  - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
- (and make it fun!)**
- 



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

them. Last Tuesday, its Co-founder and Executive Director spoke to us via Zoom.

**Larry Agee** showed photos of the organization helping set up a "container city" after the earthquake in Turkey and rebuilding a school there, providing a water filtering system for schools in Honduras, and helping people recover from floods and hurricanes in the USA. Recently, the group has helped with food programs in Ukraine. Also, they advise countries on preparation for emergencies.



Larry gave us a good feel for what it is like to go into a flood-damaged house and do "mucking and gutting - take everything out of the house and strip it to the studs so it can be rebuilt. In was impressive! He showed a photo of a house that was completely destroyed except for porcellaine objects on a shelf. **They were all OK.**

Also, Larry showed how his entire family, and several other families, work together to help however they can. "You have to go self-contained," he said- to take everything you will need. The organization has 23 trailers in the U.S. loaded with supplies and equipment. They need a lot of tarps, for example, to cover the roofs of houses "

"Always take time to talk with the survivors," said Larry. They need to talk. He told of a cold day on which a woman insisted that he take one of her deceased son's jackets. Also, he mentioned a man who had seen his roommate sucked out of the house by a tornado.

Disaster Aid USA has no paid employees, and most income is from private donations. For more information and to give what you can, see [disasteraidusa.org](http://disasteraidusa.org)

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### Our Meeting on May 23rd

Last Tuesday, our meeting was mostly about Disaster Aid USA, but we began with a brief discussion of Flags For Our Heroes. A lot of work has to be done in advance of such an event.

After the excellent speaker, we gave **happy dollars**: \$10 from Etna and \$5 each from Sara, Rob, Ken, Rick, Dan, and maybe others your editor missed. Most were for Larry and Disaster Aid, which has received small grants from our club. Dan was happy about his granddaughter's high school graduation. That is always a happy occasion.

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